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A
T R E A T I S E
O N
V E N E R E A L D I S E A S E.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.]

A
T R E A T I S E

OF

VENEREAL DISEASES



A
T R E A T I S E
O N T H E
V E N E R E A L D I S E A S E :

B Y
JAMES DUNBAR INNES, A.M.
SURGEON IN LONDON,
AND MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL
SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Et si in tanta scriptorum turba mea fama in obscuro
sit, nobilitate, ac magnitudine eorum, meo qui nomini
officient, me consolor. Liv. in Præfat.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR S. A. CUMBERLEGE,
PATER-NOSTER-ROW.

M.DCC.LXXXIII.

A
T. R. E. A. T. I. S. I.

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASES

BY

JAMES DUNBAR INNES, A.M.

Surgeon in London.

AND MEMBER OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL

SOCIETY OF LONDON.



LONDON

PRINTED FOR J. A. CHAMBERLAIN

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M.DCCCXCVI

TO

Dr. SAMUEL FOART SIMMONS,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE

OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, &c.

THE FOLLOWING

T R E A T I S E

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MOST HUMBLE

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

STRAND,
JANUARY 26, 1783.

THE AUTHOR.

TO

DR. SAMUEL FOART SIMMONS

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE

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JANUARY 20, 1783.

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Venereal Disease has already been so often discussed, by men of the greatest character and learning in the Medical Profession, that it may appear presumptuous in a Young Practitioner to venture on this as the subject of his first essay. Let me entreat, however, the candid Reader to observe, that through the whole of this little Work, I have, without prejudice, endeavoured to declare

viii INTRODUCTION.

clare facts ; and such as, I flatter myself, are useful ; and have never ventured to censure the practice of others, however different from mine, unless I have found it repugnant to truth, and my own experience.

The result of my practice is contained in the following pages. If any thing useful to society is pointed out in them, I have attained my wish, and shall be sincerely happy.

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A T T A C H M E N T

A TREATISE ON THE
brought it along with him from the
island of Hispaniola, where he had con-
T R E A T I S E
traced it, when accompanying the fa-
mous Columbus, in his second voyage
ON THE
to America.*

VENEREAL DISEASE.

In the year following, we hear of
two hundred soldiers being landed at
Cadix, who had been in the West In-
dies, and were all infected with the ve-
neral disorder; and now we cannot be

CHAP. I.

*First appearance of the Venereal Disease
in Europe.—Different forms and ap-
pearances of the disease.*

WE have no certain account of the
appearance of the venereal dis-
ease in Europe, till the year 1494, when
Peter Margarit, a Spanish nobleman,
B brought

2 A TREATISE ON THE

brought it along with him from the island of Hispaniola, where he had contracted it, when accompanying the famous Columbus, in his second voyage to America *.

In the year following, we hear of two hundred soldiers being landed at Cadiz, who had been in the West Indies, and were all infected with the venereal disorder; and now we cannot be amazed that the disease soon spread.— And in the siege of Naples (in the same year) it began to rage both in the French

* There have not been wanting attempts to prove, that the lues venerea is of a much more ancient date in Europe. But this opinion has never been satisfactorily supported. See Phil. Trans. N° 357, and 365.

I

and

and Neapolitan armies ; the latter calling it the French, and the former, the Neapolitan disease †.

After the return of the French army, the commerce which their country carried on with other nations, quickly diffused the disease over all Europe. And in 1496, a treatise was written on this subject, by Josephus Grandbeckius, entitled, “ *De Pestilentia Schorrrha, sive De Male, De Frantzis.*”—This has been followed by such a multitude on the same subject, that the bare names of the authors would take up more room than our plan can admit.

† Vide Astruc on the Venereal Disease, book i. c. II.

At the time of its first appearance, this disease raged with great violence; and has continued gradually declining in the virulence of the symptoms, till the present time *: indeed the abatement of these symptoms seems very great, within the last century; which may easily be learnt, from comparing the works of medical writers of that day, with those of our own time †; — but, perhaps, the cruel ravages made by this disorder, might be greatly owing to the unskilfulness of the practitioners, — to whom it was altogether new; — and now, physicians and surgeons becoming better acquainted with the

* Astruc on the Venereal Disease, book i. c. 11.

† Turner's Syphilis. Wiseman's Surgery.

treatment of it, their practice is more successful, and its appearances milder.

It is named venereal, from its being most frequently communicated in the celebration of Venus's rites;—but the infection may be communicated by other means. — From parents it may be given to their children; from an infected child to a clean nurse; and *vice versa*; from venereal matter lying long on any spongy part of the body, or insinuating itself into a cut, scratch, or sore, as sometimes happens to midwives, surgeons, and nurses *.—This disorder appears

* Allow me here to advise every surgeon and midwife, to be careful how they attempt the delivery of any person in the least suspected of being in-

appears in various forms;—at the particular part, where the infection is first received, its effect generally first shows itself. Its different degrees have acquired different appellations.

A discharge of matter from the parts of generation of either sex, is called Gonorrhœa;—a swelling and affection of the lymphatic glands in the inguina, or under the axilla, is termed Bubo;—a corroding ulcer about the private parts, Chancre;—and when the virus, absorbed into the mass of blood, occasions ulcers of the throat, pains of the bones, and eruptions on the skin, it is named Lues

fecta with this disorder, while they have the smallest scratch on their arms or hands: a friend of mine lately suffered through neglect of this particular.

Venerea,

Veneræa, or confirmed Pox. The different symptoms of this last have been variously distinguished, according to the appearances they assume, or the place they attack—nodi,—tophi,—gummi,—venereal ophthalmia,—&c.

Authors have been divided in their opinion, whether gonorrhœa, and syphilis are the same disease, in different stages, or entirely different disorders; and much has been written on both sides.—I cannot here enter into the controversy:—all the arguments are, or easily may be known. I shall content myself with declaring, that in my opinion they are the same disease, in different stages; and shall here assign no reason for thinking so, as I believe the reader will find, that I

had rational ground for determining in this manner, when he peruses the following pages*. We shall now proceed to the description of the first stage, Gonorrhoea.

venereal ophthalmia, — &c.

* Several experiments I have lately made (and which I intend soon to make public) serve likewise to convince me of my opinion being perfectly well-founded.

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had

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P. A. C.

CHAP. II.

Of GONORRHŒA; its appearance on its first attack; its various symptoms; progress, and termination.

GONORRHŒA—the most frequent form in which the venereal disease makes its first appearance—is a discharge of matter from the urethra in men, and the vagina in women.

According to its different symptoms, authors have divided it into different species *. A small discharge of a thin

* Van Swieten Comment. vol. v. sect. 1448. Fordyce's Review of the Venereal Disease, p. 24, &c.

consistence,

consistence, with sometimes a drop of the same matter lodged at the point of the urethra, attended with scalding in making water, makes the first species.—

When, soon after connection with an infected person, there is an inflammation of the glans, matter oozing from it, or from behind it, or from the inside of the prepuce, attended with heat, when touched by the urine, without ulceration of or discharge from the urethra itself—they name this their second species.

The third is, when, upon pressing the glans, a small quantity of matter is squeezed out, apparently coming from the body of the glans, or not farther than an inch from the urethra.

The

The fourth, consists in a plentiful discharge of matter flowing into the whole cavity of the urethra; with the symptoms before described attending. In this species, Cowper's glands are supposed to be affected.

When the matter comes from the neck of the bladder, it is the fifth species. And when these last are joined to incontinency of urine, and incapacity of retaining the semen, the sixth and last species appears;—and here the *vesiculæ seminales* are affected.

These are rather different stages than different species of gonorrhœa; all of them requiring nearly the same method of cure, except the two last, which I
would

would rank with lues, or confirmed pox; and all the others being sometimes produced by the neglect of the first species, or the first appearance of the disease.

In most cases which have fallen under my notice, the seat of the disorder was in the urethra, about an inch, or an inch and a half, from the extremity of the penis; although I have often seen it farther up, and in some cases where it had continued four or five months, it seemed to have reached the prostate gland.

The symptoms in gonorrhœa, seldom appear sooner than three days after infection, or later than twelve.

I should, however, except the two last, which I should

At

At first the patient feels an itching, pleasing, rather than disagreeable, at the point of the penis, with a slight sensation of heat, along the course of the urethra, in making water; and a very strong desire of coition, which he will then perform with unusual vigour and pleasure.

The heat of urine soon encreases;—a discharge of matter from the urethra, at first thin, clear, and watery, but quickly assuming a green yellowish appearance, is perceived;—violent pain is felt in making water, in men, about the attachment of the frænum; in women, about the fossa navicularis;—the penis is involuntarily erected;—the corpora cavernosa penis being inflamed,

cannot freely admit the influx of the blood; hence pain ensues; and, as the penis is generally bent somewhat downwards, this symptom has been called Chordée. Pain and swellings in both groins generally appear, and gain ground with the disease, and also decline and vanish with it.

If the disorder is violent, a swelling of the perinæum, and sometimes also of the whole penis, often accompany it. The prepuce inflames, swells, and contracts, in such a manner, that it cannot be drawn back; and thus the glans remains covered, which occasions great pain; and sometimes by confining portions of the venereal matter, endangers the formation of chancres under

der it. This symptom is named Phymosis.—Again, when the prepuce swells and inflames behind the glans, so as to leave the glans bare; and remains in that situation, without a practicability of being drawn forward;—this is called Paraphymosis.

The continuance of the different symptoms differs in duration;—in some cases the heat of urine and chordée quickly disappear; in others, they continue for some considerable time; in this varying greatly, according to the state of the patient's health and temperament.

The heat and pain in making water, generally go off before the chordée;—
and

and this last-mentioned symptom, before the running, which now encreases in quantity, and, changing the greenish yellow appearance, becomes more of a cream-colour, thicker, and ropy, especially in the morning; then, lessening in quantity, it grows white, viscid, like to the white of an egg; and shortly after intirely ceases.—Sometimes, however, it retains the greenish yellow colour a considerable time, and continues the discharge in much the same quantity.

This is the general progress of the disease, when proper care has been taken; but it is often rendered worse, by neglect or improper management:—the favourable symptoms are prevented; and after some time, the patient

tient finds himself worse than at the beginning.

Such bad effects as these are frequently produced by the running being too soon stopt; and often, when the cure is believed to have been speedily and compleatly perfected, swelling and inflammation of the testicles, of the tonsils, of the inguinal glands, &c. deceive the patient, and convince him, that instead of a cure, a confirmed pox has been induced.

Many respectable authors have advanced, that the running, in gonorrhœa, is produced from ulceration in the cells of the urethra, &c. occasioned by the vene-

real virus *; while others maintain, that although by a long continuance of the disease, ulcers may be formed in the parts before mentioned; yet, that in simple gonorrhœa, the running proceeds merely from an increased secretion in the mucous glands of the urethra, in consequence of the irritation of the venereal virus: and this latter opinion seems now generally to prevail; and has been confirmed, from dissections of persons who have died with a gonorrhœa of short continuance on them;—from no ulcers being observed in the vagina of women, when labouring under this disorder;

* Astruc on the Venereal Disease, b. iii. c. 1. p. 249. Van Swiet. in Boerhaave, vol. v.

—from

—from the discharge of matter, fimilar to that from the urethra, without any ulcer, from the neck of the glans, below the prepuce;—and from the encreased secretion from the nose, in catarrh, where there is no ulcer.

The appearances of the matter discharged, are the same in women as in men;—in them, the cellular membrane, and glands of the vagina, with the glandulæ myrtiformes, are the seat of the disorder.—When the inflammatory symptoms are severe, the cure is sometimes more difficult in women than in men; the various peculiarities of their sex often baffling the best method of treatment for a very considerable time.

It is the opinion of many of the profession, that gonorrhœa never terminates in a confirmed pox :—but from different cases which I have met with, I must say, that a gonorrhœa, when ill managed, or when the running has been too soon stopt, will not only change into a lues ; but even sometimes, when the running has disappeared gradually, and the disease has seemed to have been properly treated.

When great inflammation, strangury, and little running, occur, the greatest care is required ; and if in such cases the running has been suppressed, and cannot again be brought on, a pox will undoubtedly be the consequence.

CHAP. III.

Of the different methods used in the cure of
GONORRHŒA.

PRACTITIONERS seem to agree, that the first thing to be attempted, in the cure of Gonorrhœa, is,—the removal of the inflammatory symptoms.

The duration of the inflammatory stage, will much depend on the method of treatment used.

The inflammatory symptoms are relieved—by venæsection; (although some

deny the good effects of this remedy *, I have had repeated experience of its efficacy, in many cases, where the inflammation was great);—by doses of cooling physic;—by drinking moderately of softening cooling liquors; as milk and water, linseed-tea, water-gruel, or whey; and I would always advise the addition of gum arabic, in proper quantities;—but above all, by a low cooling regimen and repose.

Nitre, and other diuretics, are often prescribed; but sometimes they occasion a great deal of pain to the patient, by their action; and their good effects may be produced, by the use of the

* Dease on the Venereal Disease, p. 33.

mild diluent liquors just now mentioned.

Inflammation and swelling of the testicles, may in general be prevented by wearing a truss; which may be used, with great propriety, for some time after the disorder is cured.

Where the inflammation is violent, fomentations and poultices must be applied; and washing and soaking the penis in milk and water, moderately warm, is always proper. This serves as a fomentation to the parts, and keeps them clean; than which nothing can be more conducive to the cure*.

* The particular applications in phymosis, &c. will be mentioned in another chapter.

Opiates have been prescribed in this state of the disease; but in all the cases where I have used them, after a temporary alleviation, the symptoms generally recurred with greater violence. — The inflammation being removed, to stop the running, and remove all venereal infection, become the chief objects of our attention. And I shall only mention the methods at present practised for effecting this, omitting those of former date, and referring the reader to such authors as have written on them*.

Of late, many have opposed the use of mercury in any form, towards the cure of gonorrhoea. At the beginning of the disease they use mild opening

* Vide Wiseman's Surgery. Turner's Syphilis.

medicines,

medicines, diluting drinks, and a low cooling diet ;—afterwards, when the inflammation has gone off, prescribing balsamics and astringents ;—and certainly many cures have in this way been performed.

The greater part of practitioners, believing the medicines, now mentioned, inadequate to correct or discharge the venereal virus, add to the former method, small doses of the mild preparations of mercury ;—and, after the use of these has been some time continued, compleat the cure with balsamics and tonics.

Another set of practitioners, allowing their patients a more generous diet,
than

than either of the former (if the inflammation be not extremely violent) recommend rest; and trust the cure chiefly to this, and to injections.

As to the first opinion;—compleating the cure without the use of mercury;—although I have had experience of the truth of it, yet I must own myself unwilling to trust to it in general practice.

The second method I have generally seen most successful; and the basis of my own practice is built on it, varying as different cases may make necessary.

And now as to the last, or the cure by injections.—Although possessed of the greatest respect for gentlemen who
have

have so much praised the virtues of injections, I must candidly acknowledge, that, upon repeated trials, I was never sensible of having reaped any benefit from them, especially in the inflammatory stage of gonorrhœa; nay, in some cases, I had very great reason to repent of my practice;—for, although I had every reason to believe, that the patients adhered strictly to my directions, and were not exposed to a fresh infection, yet, some time after the running had been stopped, and the other symptoms had disappeared, a lues was the consequence *. From these facts,

* One of these, a friend of mine, lodged under the same roof with me; and I can safely aver, that he followed my advice with the strictest attention in every particular; and (if one person may

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facts, I cannot bring myself to approve of committing the cure to injections; nor do I wish to encourage their use; nay, think it pernicious, in the beginning or inflammatory stage of the disorder.—Astringent injections are composed of blue and white vitriol, cerufs, saccharum saturni, different boles, alum, &c. suspended or dissolved in watery or oily liquors.—Digestive injections, of either balsam. capaiv. or some other natural balsam, in the yolk of an egg; to which mel rosarum, oil, and water, are added; — calomel and mercur. præcip.

may ever venture to vouch for another in this circumstance) I think I can with truth affirm, that he was not exposed to any new infection.—The injection used in both cases, was composed of calomel pp. sacchar. saturn. gum arabic, and water.

alb.

alb. have likewise been added. Injections of this last kind, on first using them, occasion considerable discharge of thin matter from the urethra; afterwards, the matter becomes thick and ropy; in a few days they entirely remove the running, and the pain and heat of urine also quickly disappear;—but on omitting them even for a day or two, the running returns.—After the running becomes ropy, some astringent injection is commonly used for a few weeks.

From what has been already said, it will be perhaps easy for the reader to imagine the method of cure which I wish to follow, and which experience has hitherto pointed out to me as the best.

Although

Although I have formerly said, that the cure of gonorrhœa may be performed by means of a cooling regimen, without the use of mercury, yet I then mentioned my unwillingness to trust too much to this method:—and, in general, after the inflammatory symptoms have abated, by the use of the cooling medicines, diluent drinks, low diet, and evacuations, already recommended—I order the patient a grain of calomel, made into a pill, with conserve of roses, to be taken at bed-time; which is repeated every second or third day;—or, a drachm of the unguentum mercuriale, to be rubbed on the inside of the thighs at bed-time:—taking care to keep the belly gently open, and continuing the use of the mercurials as long as may be

be judged proper; but never so long as to affect the mouth. The parts are to be washed with warm milk and water several times a day, and to be kept clean. — Care must be taken to avoid exposure to cold; — and the use of the diet and drinks already recommended, is to be persevered in, throughout the course of the disease.

When the running begins to become ropy, and the other symptoms have abated, the use of some mild, strengthening, astringent medicine will greatly assist, and forward the cure.

C H A P. IV.

Of a GLEET.

WHEN, after the virulent symptoms of gonorrhœa have disappeared, a running of matter, of a clear ropy, or limpid watery colour, continues for a considerable length of time, it has been named a Gleet.

But discharges of matter from the urethra, extremely different in their nature and cause, and consequently in the method of cure, have likewise, very improperly, acquired this appellation.

It would be needless, here, to enumerate such; — suffice it to say, — that they generally proceed, from irritation of particular parts of the urethra, by excrescences, ulceration, &c. and cannot be cured, till these exciting causes be removed; besides, as I consider them as belonging to lues venerea, this would be an improper place to treat of them.

The species of gleet consequent to gonorrhœa, proceeds from debility, which is either of the system in general, or local, of the mucous glands of the urethra, vesiculæ seminales, &c. or both. — In all of these, the cure is to be effected by tonic medicines; — a gene-

D

rous

rous diet — taking care, however, to avoid every excess in eating or drinking;—by the use of the cold bath;—and by the use of some gently-astringent injection, which now will be of great service.—Exercise may be taken moderately, often with advantage; avoiding carefully every violent exertion; forbearing venery, and shunning, as much as possible, every idea, that may raise and stimulate the desire of such enjoyments; as both tend to relax and weaken the parts, already in a state of too great debility. In weak habits, I have found great benefit from the use of opium.—These remedies, when continued for a proper length of time, will commonly be found sufficient to
remove

remove a gleet, properly so called. The other species will be treated of in their proper place.

CHAP. V.

Of the SWELLED TESTICLE, *or* HERNIA

HUMORALIS.

THIS very disagreeable circumstance, frequently occurring in gonorrhœa, may arise from irregularity, or neglect in the patient; or from improper management in the surgeon. The former may have used violent exercise, exposed himself to cold, &c. ; or the surgeon may have neglected the use of a suspensory bandage (which always ought to be worn during the whole course of gonorrhœa); or may have stopped

ped the running by means of improper applications.

Inflammation of the testicle may occur at any period of the disease,

On its first attack, the patient feels a lancinating pain, from the bottom of the scrotum, along the course of the spermatic cord; with a sense of heat, and heaviness in one or both testicles.— Shortly after, the testes become exceedingly painful to the touch, and appear red and enlarged. After this, every symptom is aggravated, and the patient's condition becomes truly miserable. A violent degree of fever takes place; the swelling of the testicle is greatly en-

D 3 creased;

creased; and the slightest touch of it, excites the most excruciating pain.

In these circumstances, resolution of the inflammation becomes the principal object; and for this purpose, bleeding is attended with the best effects;—it is generally very strongly indicated;—and it has the advantage of evacuation by stool, as it both sooner tends to carry off the inflammation, and no ways disturbs the patient's rest and posture, so requisite to be maintained;—and this last ought always to be horizontal:—for which reason, also, emollient clysters are to be preferred to purgative medicines; they will be sufficient to keep the belly open; and they may be useful as fomentations

to

to the rectum, &c. — Venæsection is to be repeated, as circumstances may indicate.

As to topical applications, the testicle is to be suspended by a bandage, which prevents pain, incident (at that time to the spermatic cord) from the weight of the testis; and warm fomentations are to be applied every two or three hours, and continued for some time, which in this inflammation are particularly beneficial.

The application of leeches, to the part, is often useful, especially, when the topical inflammation continues, after the pulse forbids general bleeding.

When the inflammation has in some degree abated, poultices will be serviceable; but till then, I never would advise the use of them, as the pain, occasioned by their weight, seems to me to overbalance the advantages they give; especially as the same good effects are obtained by fomentations. Poultices may be either of bread and milk, or cicuta, with or without sacchar. saturn. When they are applied, they must be kept on by means of a bag truss.

After copious bleeding, I have used emetics, and always found them very powerful in discussing the inflammation. The patient must, through the cure, be kept on a very low diet, and use the
cooling

cooling diluent drinks already recommended. By these means, I have * been fortunate enough to get the better of every complaint of this kind, that has come under my care. — The inflammation gradually decreases; — the testicle grows softer; — and we may at length feel the epididymis separate from the body of the testis. After this has acquired its usual feel, there is little danger of the patient's relapse; yet let the suspensory be continued, as the use of it, for some considerable time, will prove extremely beneficial, and wholly prevent any recurrence of the complaint.

Cases of swelled testicle will sometimes occur, where the testes, without

* Chap. iii.

much

much pain, are greatly enlarged and hardened, and put on the appearance of schirrus. Here a mercurial course is often successful, compleatly removing the complaint. Such swellings, after they begin to lessen, quickly disappear, leaving, however, sometimes, an induration of the epididymis, which often continues a considerable time. A case of this kind I had under my hands about three months ago.

CHAP. VI.

Of the second stage of the Venereal Disease;—LUES VENEREA, or CONFIRMED POX.—Its different appearances;—and method of cure.

THE venereal virus, absorbed by the lymphatics, into the mass of blood, falling upon different parts of the body, is called a Lues, or Pox.

Its evils are various, as are the parts it attacks :—appearing on the penis, it occasions small eroding ulcers, called Chancres ;—in the axillary, or inguinal glands, Bubo ;—in the throat, Ulcers ;—

Having

in

in the bones, excruciating pains, especially when warm in bed. Scurfs are formed on many parts of the body;—excreescences about the anus, termed *Mori Feci*;—eruptions on the skin, blotches, and excreescences *, especially on the forehead and breast, and on other bones which are least covered; as those of the skull, tibia, &c.—caries of the skull, bones of the nose, and palate.—And, when the disease has been of long continuance, all the bones have become carious; and the whole body being covered with ulcers, the patient, a most miserable and loathsome object, has died, distressed beyond the power of relief.

* Nodi, Tophi.

Having

Having thus given a description of the disease, I shall first consider the general method of treatment, for removing the venereal taint or infection from the system; — and afterwards take notice of particular symptoms, requiring peculiarities from the general method of cure.

When, by the appearance of any one or more of the symptoms already mentioned, the patient is found to labour under the lues, or confirmed state of the venereal disease, practitioners seem to have agreed, that mercury, in proper quantities, is the only medicine we can trust to for its complete removal and radical cure.—But, although they agree in the medicine,
they

they differ as to the intentions in which they use it. Some introducing mercury into the system, and continuing its use, until the salivary glands, becoming affected, the medicine is allowed to run off with the increased discharge of saliva. — Others, exhibiting mercurials in small doses, for a greater length of time, allow it to be carried off equally by all the secretions, increased by its action, avoiding a particular determination to the salivary glands. This last, which is named the alterative method of cure, I have always found preferable to the former; and therefore endeavour to complete the cure in every case, without salivation.

But,

But, in the exhibition of mercury, with this last intention, the greatest caution must be observed; the mode of conveying it into the system; the quantity requisite for effecting a cure; and the space of time necessary for continuing the use of it, varying in almost every second case that occurs.— And this shews the impossibility of laying down any general rule on the subject. It may, however, be proper to offer some few general remarks on the use of mercury, as far as is consistent with what has just now been mentioned.

And first,—the greatest attention is to be paid to the patient's constitution:—without this, instead of reliev-

ing his complaints, we may aggravate them. It is almost incredible to think, how careless in this particular some practitioners are; for no sooner do they find a venereal complaint present, than they prescribe mercury, be the constitution of the patient what it may.—Of this a very pregnant proof lately fell within my knowledge, in the case of a young gentleman of a scrophulous habit, and subject to pulmonary complaints; who was ordered, by his surgeon, to rub two drachms of mercurial ointment on his legs and thighs every night; but this, instead of removing the complaint, began to be productive of very great mischief, encreasing the pulmonary complaints, and inducing some degree of hæmoptysis.—The continuance

tinuance of the venereal complaint, was attributed to the too sparing use of the medicine. Great exactness was therefore strongly recommended in rubbing the quantity prescribed;—but no notice was taken of the other symptoms. However, as the young gentleman paid more attention to the particular circumstances of his case, than his surgeon had done, he grew weary of this method of treatment; and, applying to a physician, was, by his advice, sent to the country,—allowed a nourishing diet:—and when, by these means, he had got the better of the other symptoms, the venereal complaint was removed by the use of gentle alteratives.

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In all feropulous habits, every symptom of the venereal disease is particularly dangerous; and mercury, if given in large doses, will, in general, be detrimental. In such persons, when mercury in large doses has been used, venereal sores, instead of being healed, or the discharge from them mended, put on a very unfavourable appearance; and the patient seems inclined to become hectic. But upon mercurials being laid aside,—the bark given in proper doses,—and a nourishing diet allowed, they generally heal up, and the cure may be compleated by small doses of the same medicine, which in large quantity seemed to threaten so much mischief.

All

All weak and delicate habits require the greatest attention in their treatment.—Even when the constitution is sound, although less care seems necessary, yet we can never shew too much. Here, previous to the use of mercury, we may with great propriety take away some blood; and this will tend to obviate any bad effect from the velocity of the circulation being afterwards increased by the use of the mercurials.—The bowels ought likewise to be cleansed by some doses of cooling physic.—And in every case, where it can be done, the patient ought to use the warm bath several times; which, by relaxing the surface, allows the mercury to go off gently by perspiration; and thus prevents determi-

nation to the salivary glands. And with the same intention, during the whole course (and it will be found useful to continue it for some time after) the patient ought to wear a flannel shirt and drawers. These circumstances being premised, and the patient having restricted himself to a light diet, mercurials may now be exhibited; and the ointment seems, at present, the most approved preparation.

Let a drachm of this be rubbed into the inside of the thighs; at first, every second night; afterwards, every night, at bed-time; — and this may even be encreased to a drachm and a half; which quantity I have always found sufficient. — During the course of the frictions,

frictions, we must always carefully guard against the slightest appearance of salivation; and if any such occur, the rubbing is to be discontinued; which, with keeping warm, and the use of a gentle purgative, will, in general, remove all tendency to an increased discharge of saliva.

The diet, throughout the course, should be light, and moderately nourishing; and may consist of milk, and weak broths.—The diluent drinks, already recommended in gonorrhœa, ought also to be used.—A decoction of the woods, taken twice a day, in the quantity of half a pint each time, often proves extremely beneficial.—The use of this decoction may be continued

with advantage for some time after the cure is accomplished.

Profuse sweats,—debility,—diarrhœa, —swelling of the fauces, with difficulty of deglutition, sometimes occur during the course. When the first of these happens, the use of mercurials must be discontinued, and the patient's strength supported by the cortex, and a more liberal diet.

Although I would advise the patient to be kept warm, and to shun every exposure to cold air, I can by no means assent to the extraordinary degree of heat which some recommend, having generally found it prejudicial.

The

The diarrhœa may be removed by a gentle purgative; by bathing the legs and thighs in warm water, or fomenting them with flannel cloths wrung out of warm water. An opiate, after the operation of the purgative, is generally of good effect.

Swelling of the fauces, often attended with great difficulty of deglutition, sometimes continues very obstinate.—The drawing the steams of warm water into the mouth and throat, acting as a fomentation, will generally give relief. And fomentations applied externally, tend to relax, and restore perspiration. If the inflammatory symptoms be alarming, blood-letting (proportioned to the patient's strength) will be found advantageous ;

tageous ; and blisters may be applied to the throat.—Again, should any tendency to putrefaction happen, the cortex is to be exhibited. Mercurials must here likewise be laid aside, till every symptom of the inflammation has subsided. This method of treatment, when properly persevered in, will, for the most part, be successful, in removing these accidental symptoms.

The use of mercury can only be judged to have been long enough continued, when the symptoms abate : having already observed, that no precise quantity of the medicine, nor any limited space of time can be fixed on, as sufficient for the cure ; in some cases, the patient may be as much recovered
in

in five or six weeks, as in others, in twice that time. The healing up of fores, affords a very excellent mark of the medicine having taken proper effect. And when their cicatrices have acquired the colour, and approach in softness, the feel of the neighbouring skin, we may then conclude, that the medicine has been properly persevered in, and that its farther continuance may be dispensed with.

Relapses, however, frequently occurring, it may not be improper to take notice of some circumstances, which may enable us to distinguish their appearances, from those of recent infection.

In cases of relapse, buboes very seldom

dom appear:—the parts most commonly affected, are, the fauces, the scrotum, the anus, and the parts nearest to or on the surface of the body.—The sores, in such cases, discharge a thinner matter, from the patient being debilitated by the former course. And the use of the bark thus becomes more necessary, than in cases of recent infection.

When the cure has been completed, the patient ought, for some time after, to continue the use of a light cooling diet; and carefully to avoid every excess.

Having now given a general description of the general method of cure in the confirmed state of the venereal disease, I shall proceed to
5 mention

mention such particular symptoms and appearances, as require assistance peculiar to themselves.

C H A P. VII.

Of C H A N C R E S.

C H A N C R E S are small eating ulcers, situated on the private parts; and may be the only symptom of lues venerea, or may be accompanied by others. Previous to the ulceration, a slight degree of inflammation is perceived, or some red spots, on portions of the glans and prepuce; and these becoming more discernible, at last a thin matter is discharged.—By the number of red spots, we may generally foretel that of the ulcerations;—they
feldom ,

feldom run together ; each remaining single.

Chancres have been thought symptoms always belonging to lues venerea. — That they generally are so, is undeniable ; but that, sometimes, they may be only local, seems to be clear. Chancre, induced by a portion of the venereal virus adhering to a particular part of the penis, in coition, exciting inflammation and ulceration, may surely, at first, be considered as local ; and, as such, may be cured without the use of mercury. But although this is the case, when the inflammation first appears, yet, in the after state, we are by no means to trust the cure to any thing, but the preparations of mercury.

Of

Of the possibility of curing chancre in this first state without mercury, I had an instance a few months ago, in the case of a gentleman who applied to me shortly after connection with a suspected person.—On the right side of the prepuce, there was an appearance exactly similar to that preceding chancre; but no ulceration had taken place. This I entirely cut out; and the part was healed by common dressings. — And to this day no venereal complaint has appeared; nor has the gentleman ever used a single grain of mercurials.

When chancres occur in the state of ulceration, the general method of cure, recommended in the preceding chapter,

chapter, is to be pursued;—it only remains to mention the external applications proper to be applied.

And all that is necessary to be observed on this head, is, that the sores are to be kept clean, by washing them often with milk and water; and ought to be dressed with digestive, or cerate. And this method, experience has shewn me, is infinitely better, than that of applying mercurials to the part; as they are less apt to encrease inflammation: and when they are used, the alteration of the appearances in the sores, demonstrates with more certainty the effects of the mercury thrown into the system.

When

When the lips or edges of chancres
 rise, gentle pressure will be found pre-
 ferable to repress them, rather than
 the application of caustic to such de-
 licate parts.

C H A P. VIII.

Of P H Y M O S I S.

WHEN the prepuce (in consequence of inflammation) adheres to the glans, without a possibility of being drawn back, or the glans denuded, Phymosis is said to take place.

And this is, with great propriety, divided into two distinct species. The first, where inflammation alone appears; and the second, where it is attended with chancre.

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And the following marks may be adduced for distinguishing the two species :

In the first, or that without ulceration, although the inflammation is frequently more violent than in the other, the prepuce is not so much indurated, and affords a reddish or chrystalline appearance ; and we can perceive the discharge of matter to proceed from the urethra ;—the inguinal glands are not so frequently swelled, as in the other species ;—and lastly, we may the rather judge this species to be present, when the patient, at the time of its first attack, has laboured under simple gonorrhœa.

When the species, attended with ulceration, takes place, besides the induration

tion of the prepuce, there is a considerable discharge from the part, and the glands in the groin almost always appear swelled : — besides, the duration of the complaints may serve to direct our conjectures, as to ulcers being formed.

The treatment of the first of these species, has been already, in part, taken notice of * ; and seldom requires more, than has been advised, for obviating inflammation, if we add, abstinence from the use of mercury.

The other, where chancres on the prepuce and glans are present, and where the matter is pent up, must be treated in a similar manner; the parts are to

* Vide chap. on Gonorrhœa.

be very carefully kept clean, by means of syringing them; and for this purpose, milk and water, or the vegeto-mineral water, will be extremely proper. And here, as in the first species, the use of mercury should always be laid aside till the inflammatory symptoms subside.

When the antiphlogistic course has been persisted in for some time, and proves ineffectual, and the appearance of the discharge grows worse, and the induration of the prepuce seems to encrease, practitioners recommend the division of the prepuce; which, by removing the stricture, must tend to diminish the inflammation. — And this operation is performed in the following manner:

Having drawn up the prepuce, and introduced a crooked bistory, with the point guarded, between the glans and the prepuce, as far as the corona, the edge is to be turned upwards, the prepuce pierced, and the operator bringing the knife towards himself, the whole is divided, and the operation is completed. — After this, pledgits of soft digestive may be applied to the parts; and after the inflammatory symptoms have abated, they will heal up, with simple dressings, prosecuting the general method of cure already laid down.—In phymosis, gangrene often takes place; and large portions of the penis are often lost. However, this is rather to be attributed to the inflammatory symptoms being kept up by the admini-

stration of mercury, than to any thing else. When the method above laid down has been prosecuted, this seldom occurs. Opiates, abating the irritation, are often useful.

CHAP. IX.

Of PARAPHYMOSIS.

THE prepuce retracted behind the glans, and swelled and inflamed, so as to make its return impracticable, is termed Paraphymosis.

Here, as in Phymosis, the division into two species proves useful; the first, arising from inflammation alone; and the other, from inflammation conjoined with ulcer. The symptoms aduced as distinguishing the two species in Phymosis, will likewise serve to point out the difference in this case. The cure

varies, as in the like distinction in Phymosis; and little can be advised, more than the application of fomentations, &c. conducing to relax the stricture;—venæsection, and a strict adherence to the antiphlogistic regimen. — In paraphymosis, we frequently see instances of mortification taking place; doubtless often occasioned by persisting in the use of mercurials, given from an ill-judged notion of healing the ulcerations; but which, in reality, by their irritating power, encrease the tendency to mortification. When, with the impossibility of returning the prepuce, the inflammatory symptoms run high, scarifications, or rather incisions, on the sides of the penis, ought to be made at the neck of the glans; and these are to be carried as
 deep

deep as the stricture; otherwise, it is evident, they may be attended with more prejudice than advantage.—It is needless, however, to attempt bringing the prepuce forward, immediately after this operation, as that must be a work of longer time.—The wound is to be dressed with digestive, in both species.—Mercurials are to be abstained from, till the inflammation has abated; then, in the last species, the cure may proceed as already recommended. — And, in the first, the method for the cure of gonorrhœa must be prosecuted, after this accidental symptom has vanished.

When the matter, discharged from the incisions, puts on an unpromising appearance,

appearance, and sloughs seem to be forming, the bark, given in proper doses, will be attended with the best effects.

CHAP. X.

Of BUBOES.

SWELLINGS in the inguinal and subaxillary glands, proceeding from a venereal cause, are termed Buboës. They rarely are the first symptom of infection; but may be produced, by the absorption of venereal virus,—from chancre,—or from a general taint of the system.—Sometimes they appear singly; sometimes they are accompanied with other symptoms.—They often arise soon after the running in gonorrhœa has been imprudently stopped.

These

These swellings are very different in their nature and progress; some tending quickly to inflammation and suppuration, and others remaining indolent for a long-continued space of time.

Of the first kind, are such as occur in young and healthy persons; and they generally arise soon after infection;—as those of the latter kind do in patients whose constitutions are weak or injured, and of a dull cold habit.

Practitioners differ much in the method of treating buboes; some earnestly recommending them to be brought to suppuration, while others as strongly advise their repulsion. Many arguments have been advanced to prove the propriety

priety of each method.—Surgeons advising them to be brought to suppuration, contend, that bubo seems an effort of nature, to throw off the virus, and, as such, ought to be encouraged. To this they add, that after suppuration, the cure is completed with more certainty, and with a less quantity of mercury.—On the other hand, it is urged, that, as suppuration is the cause of much pain and trouble to the patient; and as in both cases mercury must be exhibited before the cure can be effected; by repelling the tumour, they both save the patient much uneasiness, and abridge the time of the cure.

The danger we run of thoroughly
poxing the patient, by throwing the
venereal

venereal matter into the system; and the excellent marks which the healing of buboes affords of the effects of mercury upon the system in general, determine me to prefer the cure by suppuration;—yet, although I have often found very bad effects from their repulsion, I must fairly own, that I have sometimes seen the cure perfected, without the intervention of any such accident.

In buboes of the first kind, we shall find it no very difficult matter to bring them to suppurate; it will only be necessary to allow the patient a nourishing diet, and to apply fomentations and poultices to the part. Mercury is often prescribed to accelerate suppuration; but as this sometimes produces the very
opposite

opposite effect, I seldom use it at this period, in buboes of this nature. When by the feel of the parts, and the size of the tumour, we judge it proper for the matter to be discharged, we find three different ways proposed for giving vent to the matter:—we may allow the tumour to burst of itself;—we may apply caustic;—or we may use the knife or the lancet. And first,

Allowing the tumour to burst.—This is often productive of very bad consequence; as the matter rarely having a free vent, absorption may again take place, and at last incision be necessary.—As to the application of caustic; I cannot say much in favour of this practice; as the patient has been

often brought into very imminent danger from the blood-vessels being laid bare; and as we are unable to determine the depth the caustic is to penetrate.—And I am inclined to favour the third method, or that by incision. Here the surgeon, in the manner of operating, must follow the dictates of his own sense. If the matter seems collected, an incision of the length of the tumour, is the most proper method; but if the matter be distributed in cells (as will often happen) two or three punctures with a lancet will be more adviseable.—Surgeons have advised the removal of a circular piece of the fore-part of the tumour; but I presume this is always unnecessary; for even when the top of the bubo has put on
a bluish

a bluish appearance, I have always shunned this cruel operation; and, in its stead, have substituted the opening by seton. After making a small incision at the upper part of the tumour, I introduce a probe, with a skain of silk, softened with digestive ointment, and carefully examine the proper depth; then, bringing the probe to the lower part of the tumour, and cutting upon it, I draw the silk through, and finish the operation:—and this, which is not half so painful, as the cutting off the cap of the tumour, I have, in many instances, seen to answer perfectly well. The wound has uniformly healed, in proportion as the mercury has taken effect on the system. As the cure advances, the number of silk threads must

be gradually diminished.—After buboes have been opened by incision, the dressings, proper to be applied, will be dry lint, or digestive ointment. Poultices in general ought to be continued for some days after the operation; and they are particularly useful, when the matter appears confined in cells.—Fungous excrescences are to be removed by caustic.

Thus far the method of cure by suppuration. Let us now take a view of that by repulsion. In pursuing this plan of treatment, mercurials must be administered without delay, and the patient must be kept on a light cooling diet:—in a short time the tumours will generally lessen, and gradually

gradually disappear. Nothing can promote this more, than the repeated use of emetics :—leeches applied to the part, and the saccharum saturni poultice, will be sufficient topical discutients.

After the bubo has entirely vanished, the use of mercurials must be continued for some time. Indeed we often meet with relapse following the repelling of buboes, as we cannot have any certain mark of the cure being completed, which we always have when incision is practised. If at any time I would advise buboes to be repelled, it is in those cases where the tumour puts on a very indolent appearance :—but even here I cannot recommend it, till after all endeavours to bring on suppura-

tion have failed ; and in such, mercury will sometimes be found wonderfully to promote the ripening of the tumour. Patient continuance of the remedies for either purpose, is requisite in the greater number of those cases ; and we must steadily pursue our plan, without regard to every trifling alteration that may occur.

In three cases of indolent bubo, I have tried the effect of electricity, but without the least appearance of success.

CHAP. XI.

Of Ulcers in the Throat;—Strictures of the Urethra;—Excrescences;—Ulcers with carious Bones;—and Venereal Ophthalmia.

ULCERS in the fauces are often formed; sometimes not a little difficult to be distinguished from such as are present in the common fore-throat.—The following remarks will, perhaps, in some measure serve to point out the difference;

In venereal ulcers in the throat, we find a very striking resemblance to those of the penis; and we see no

swelling, nor the degree of inflammation which is met with in the fore-throat proceeding from cold, &c. We are not, however, precipitately to give our judgment on this matter, as deceptions often happen; and therefore it is only after the antiphlogistic course, persisted in for some time, has been unsuccessful, that we are to pronounce them venereal.

Besides the general method of cure, it will only be necessary to keep the throat clean by mild gargles;—some of those called detergent, are often of too acrid a nature.

Strangury, heat, suppression, and incontinency of urine, often occur in ve-

nereal cases : appearing in gonorrhœa, they are generally removed with the other symptoms of inflammation ; — but we often find them in old cases, when the patient has long laboured under a venereal taint, or has been repeatedly infected ; and sometimes they are so very alarming, as to threaten an entire retention of urine. These symptoms steal on so gradually, as seldom to be observed by the patient till they have been of some continuance, and become troublesome and painful ; — they are often attended with a discharge of matter from the urethra, which has been improperly named gleet : — but from this it differs very essentially in its cause, and method of cure. In

this situation assistance is generally called in. This strangury, &c. has been said to proceed from caruncles in the urethra;—from the enlargement of the prostate gland, and the mucous glands of the urethra;—strictures of the urethra, occasioned by cicatrices of former ulcerations;—enlargement of the verumontanum;—and schirrus of the prostate. The different symptoms of these several complaints, have not yet been specified with precision; probably, from the same treatment being proper in all of them. To distinguish diseases of the prostate, and vesiculæ feminales, from mere obstructions of the urethra, it is observed, that in the former, matter follows the last drops of urine; whereas,

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in the latter, it is discharged previous to making water. In these circumstances, the method of cure, now generally recommended, is the use of bougies; which, by their pressure, encourage a plentiful discharge from the urethra; and, by their keeping the passage extended, lessen the stricture. Various receipts have been given for preparing bougies; however, as they all act upon the same principle, it is enough that they be possessed of a sufficient degree of elasticity, to prevent their bending, or giving way to every slight resistance, without being too hard or brittle.—And the receipt given by Mr. Sharp * will answer sufficiently well.

* Critical Enquiry, p. 175.

In the introduction of bougies, we must be exceedingly cautious never to push them with too much force against any obstacle, which may be productive of violent inflammation, and its consequences; nor to withdraw them at every slight interruption; endeavouring to enter the obstruction a little way, and keeping in mind, that the suppuration, brought on by these means, must undoubtedly be in greater quantity, and far more conducive to the cure, than when the point of the bougie only touches the obstacle.—When bougies are used, they ought to be of as large a size as can easily be introduced. Their first application is generally very painful; and we should therefore allow them to remain in the urethra

thra

thra only for a very short time; two or three hours a day will be sufficient. When the inflammation, excited by their use, becomes violent, we must lay aside the bougies for some days, or rather till such inflammatory symptoms have gone off; and then we must again have recourse to them. After the patient has been used to them for some time, he may be brought to keep them in for five, six, seven, or eight hours a day; and the greater number of hours he wears them, the less time will be required for the cure.

During the use of bougies, the patient ought to live on a low cooling diet, which will tend to prevent inflammation. As to the length of time necessary for continuing the use of the bougie,

bougie, it is impossible to lay down any general rule. In some cases, seven or eight weeks will be sufficient, while others may require several months.—We can only judge by the complaint disappearing.—And after this, we ought to continue the use of the bougie for some little time, leaving it off gradually. These complaints, although venereal, are generally removed by the means now proposed; yet some cases will be found, where, from being joined with other symptoms, mercurials will be found necessary; but such cases, the surgeon's own sense and prudence must point out.

Excreescences often arise about the verge of the anus, and on the scrotum;—they generally disappear as the medicine
takes

takes effect on the constitution ; and in this case they only require to be kept clean, by warm milk and water. — If, however, they be large, and of long continuance, they are to be destroyed by caustic, or they may be extirpated with the knife.

Ulcers, with carious bones, sometimes occur ;—but cases of this kind are now rarely to be met with ; —they appear most frequently in the bones of the nose and palate ; and besides the general method of cure, there is little to be done, except washing them frequently, with mild liquors, milk and water, &c. using decoctions of the woods, of sarsaparilla, or the Lisbon diet-drink.

Ophthalmia,

iii Ophthalmia, from a venereal cause, is often met with. — It generally gives way to topical remedies, the general antiphlogistic course, and the use of mercurials afterwards.

C H A P. XII.

*Of the difference in the Method of Cure in
the two Sexes.*

HAVING now considered not only the proper method of removing the general infection from the system, but likewise those symptoms which most frequently occur, requiring particular treatment—it only remains, that I should mention the difference in the method of cure in the two sexes.—On this head it will be sufficient to observe, that, in the first stage of the venereal disease, gonorrhœa, although the symptoms are seldom so distressing as in men, yet women
require

require much greater length of time for the cure. The different circumstances of their constitution render them much more liable to a gleet, or a continuance of the running, than the other sex.— Again, topical applications may be more easily applied, and consequently may be more successful in the female. When mercurials are to be given, we ought to be very cautious in exhibiting them, as in women, in general, a much smaller quantity of these medicines is productive of bad effects, than in men. It is proper to add, that during the use of mercurials, women must be allowed a more nourishing diet, than has been recommended for our own sex.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the different preparations of MERCURY.

BEFORE I conclude, I think it right to say a few words concerning the preparations of mercury.

Although instances may undoubtedly be met with, where the acrid preparations of mercury have been successfully exhibited; yet, when we consider the very great difficulty that occurs in introducing them in proper quantity, and the continual danger from the violence of their effects, I believe we shall be inclined

clined to prefer those of the milder sort ; especially as, without the inconveniences accompanying the others, they are always followed by equally happy effects. —The corrosive sublimate is now, I believe, seldom used ; and I have never experienced any benefit from it, given either in the solution, or in pills, unless where opiates were combined with it.

In treating of the general method of cure, I mentioned mercurial ointment as the preparation most commonly used ; and for my own part, I am always led to prefer it ; but, as in practice we find many patients possessed of the greatest aversion to the use of it, it is frequently necessary to give mercurials by the mouth ; and for this purpose, calomel
made

made into pills with conserve of roses, will be found extremely proper ;—each pill should contain a grain, or a grain and a half of the calomel ; and two may be taken every second night at bed-time.

When the common mercurial pill is used, two or three may likewise be taken every second night ; these last, however, are not always of sufficient efficacy ; for, although they may appear to have been very carefully prepared, yet the mercury is often apt to run together ; and in that case they prove useless.

I have often used the *Pilulæ Æthiopicae* of the Edinburgh Dispensatory (which nearly resemble those of Dr. Plummer, described in the Edinburgh

Medical

Medical Effays) and have always found them infinitely preferable to the common mercurial pill;—the dose of them is from five to fifteen grains; and they are likewise to be given every second night.

F I N I S.

